REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-18 and 20-22 are now pending. Claims 4 and 19 have been canceled and the limitations thereof incorporated into claims 1, 13 and 18. Accordingly the arguments presented are directed to the grounds for rejection of original claim 4 and 19 at page 8 of the examiner's action. The amendments are made to focus the claims on preferred features of applicants' system and due to the length and complexity of the prior art. Applicants may opt to pursue other features of the invention in a continuation or division.

Claim 5 was objected to for failure to spell out the terms "ISO" and "CMM". It is widely known to persons skilled in the art that these refer to International Standards Organization (ISO) and Capability Maturity Model (CMM). In the chemical arts, Mg has the same meaning as the spelled out name magnesium, and such abbreviations are commonly used in claims. There is no rule forbidding use of art-recognized acronyms in claims, nor is any section of 35 USC 112 applicable. It is clear in context that the acronyms relate to standards, not to other technologies. The requirement should therefore be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Walsh U.S. Patent Application *20020147620,* Miller U.S. Patent Application 20030110067, and Davies, et al. U.S. Patent Application *20030033191.* The basis for the combination of Walsh and Miller is not clearly given at page 4, second paragraph of the action. It is agreed that Miller deals with a capability maturity model for a business, but why is that a reason to combine features from Miller into Walsh? Walsh is directed to a software quality assurance management system with no clear relationship to Miller's system. No prima facie case for obviousness of the system and method claimed by applicants is made out unless the examiner provides a reasonable basis for making the combination.
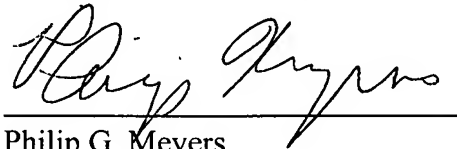
As to original claims 4 and 19, for applicants' limitation of "composite instructions meeting two or more predetermined standards", the examiner refer's to Walsh's activity form, finding form and observation form, citing pars. [0054], [0055] and [0042]. Paragraphs 54 and 55, make clear that the system displays forms that should be filled out. Paragraph [0042] describes how standards are used:

[0042] The architecture described above provides a general framework in which an SQA Management System 20 may be implemented. In particular, the preferred embodiment of the present invention configures the SQA Management System 20 to implement an SQA program that complies with the requirements of the CMM defined by the Software Engineering Institute ("SEI") at Carnegie-Melon University. However, in other embodiments, the SQA Management System 20 may also be configured to implement other types of quality assurance and/or auditing programs such as those used for ISO 9000 and/or TL 9000.

To say that the system "may also be configured to implement..." does not suggest the existence of a single composite set of instructions that meet two or more standards at the same time. There is no detailed discussion in Walsh of what manner of instructions are displayed to the user completing different forms as the reference describes. To the extent the displayed instructions relate at all to a standard, par/ [0042] suggests the system implements one standard at a time. Accordingly for the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 13 and 18 as amended are patentably distinct from the systems of the cited references.

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place the case in condition for allowance. Favorable action and passage of the case to issue are respectfully requested. It is believed that no other fees are due. If this is incorrect, please charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1588.

Respectfully submitted,

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